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Date: February 5, 2004

By: 

Carol A. See

**PATENT**  
**Docket No. GC381-D1**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                                              |   |                            |
|----------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| In re Application of                         | ) |                            |
|                                              | ) |                            |
| David A. Estell                              | ) | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |
|                                              | ) |                            |
| Serial No.: Unassigned                       | ) | Examiner: Unassigned       |
|                                              | ) |                            |
| Filed: Filed Herewith                        | ) |                            |
|                                              | ) |                            |
| For: Proteases From Gram-Positive Organisms) | ) |                            |

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment places this Divisional Application of the prior application Serial No. 09/462,846, filed on January 13, 2000 (a copy of which is filed herewith) in condition to begin prosecution. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments to the Specification and Claims be entered prior to the examination on the merits of the present Divisional application. None of the amendments to the Claims is intended to narrow the scope of any of the amended Claims within the meaning of *Festo*<sup>1</sup>. Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2. Amendments

<sup>1</sup> *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, No. 95-1066, 2000 WL 1753646 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).